

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/622,609

Examiner

Tianjie Chen

Applicant(s)

NAKATA, EIJI

Art Unit

2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on 08/14/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-7,9 and 10.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20061017.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


TIANJIE CHEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jonathan P. Osha on 10/18/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

- In claim 1, line 2; "prescribed" has been deleted.
- In claim 3, line 2; "prescribed" has been deleted.
- In claim 9, line 2; "prescribed" has been deleted.
- In claim 10, line 2; "prescribed" has been deleted.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- Claim 1, as the closest reference on record, the combination of Ho (US 6,061,232) and Takahashi (JP 09-63395A) shows a disc drive apparatus for reading information from or writing information onto a prescribed disc, including: a changeover switch, provided on a front face portion, and used for altering settings between a master and a slave in working of a disc drive body, a cover provided so as to cover the changeover switch; **but fail to show** a lock mechanism for locking the cover, wherein the lock mechanism includes: a pair of electromagnets arranged so as to face each other; an opening formed in the cover; and a protrusion disposed on one of the pair of electromagnets at a location where it is inserted through the opening by the action of the pair of

electromagnets in at on state while, in an off state, being disposed at a location where it is not inserted through the opening by the action of the pair of electromagnets.

- Claim 3, as the closest reference on record, the combination of Ho (US 6,061,232) and Takahashi (JP 09-63395A) shows disc drive apparatus having changeover switch and lock mechanism including: a cover provided so as to cover the changeover switch in an on state, **but fails to show** an opening/closing check section preventing the cover from opening in an on state.
- Claim 9, as the closest reference on record, the combination of Ho (US 6,061,232) and Takahashi (JP 09-63395A) shows disc drive apparatus having changeover switch and lock mechanism including: a cover provided so as to cover the changeover switch in an on state, **but fails to show** that the lock mechanism includes one opening provided in the changeover switch body and a protrusion provided thereon so that it is inserted through the opening in an on state, while is not inserted through the opening in an off state.
- Claim 10, as the closest reference on record, the combination of Ho (US 6,061,232) and Takahashi (JP 09-63395A) shows disc drive apparatus having changeover switch and lock mechanism; **but fails to show** that the lock mechanism are assembled into one unit.
- Applicant asserts: an object of the present invention to provide a disc drive apparatus capable of not only performing changeover between settings of a master and a slave in working thereof with ease, but also immediately confirming a set status of a disc drive apparatus between a master and a slave in working thereof (Specification p. 3).

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


TIANJIE CHEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER